

**POLSON RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Fairgrounds Fire Station No. 1

September 14, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Notice: All meetings for the Polson Rural Fire District Board of Trustees are recorded.

Board trustee members present: R. Jack Clapp, Ron Roberts, Jack Konitz, Fred Nelson, and John Doty.

Board trustee member absent: None

Staff: Fire Chief Paul Laisy, Finance Officer Bonnie M. Manicke.

Guests/Visitors: Michael Hingiss, Leanna Fillman, Ray Winn, Donna Winn, Alison Meslin, Jane Clapp, Grant Clapp, Una Rose Graham, Cynthia Waterman, Matt Dougherty, Drew Hoel, Jeff Veach, Scott Beggs Lake County Budget and Finance Director.

Chair Clapp opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. {00:14}.

Minutes August 10, 2016 and September 8, 2016 {00:40} – Trustee Nelson motion to approve the minutes August 10, 2016. Trustee Doty second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed. Trustee Nelson motion to approve the minutes September 8, 2016 FY 2016-2017 budget hearing and special meeting. Trustee Konitz second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed. Alison Meslin requested correction on page 1 regarding the budget amendment in February of \$25,000 it wasn't advertised budgeted properly. Dick Wunderlich is identified as the visitor. **Trustee Doty motion to amend the minutes September 8, 2016. Trustee Konitz second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.**

Communications {11:03} – Easthaven Baptist church provided a certificate of liability insurance commercial coverage effective July 25, 2016 to July 25, 2019. Additionally insured provision Polson Rural Fire District is named as additional insured on policy in relation to the use of the building at the Big Arm Station #2.

Claims: {12:24} – Trustee Doty requested the claims report list the invoice and include the item purchased. Trustee Nelson reviewed the Providence Health Service bill for the current charges. Trustee Doty reviewed the Draggin Wagon bill \$300 for service at Irvine Flats fire; Galls bill \$677.22 badges for turnouts was deferred in March; MSU fire service training school FY2017 resource center membership \$185 provides library material for training purposes. Trustee Roberts reviewed the Les Schwab \$827.62 for three new tires. The tire damage was extreme, In the future, heavy duty tires will be replaced on the apparatus. Montana Ace charges \$300.61 included equipment to sharpen chain saw and container for saws on engine, Schulz Refrigeration invoice \$6,125 for air conditioning unit. Fire Chief Laisy provided the information regarding the claims. **Trustee Konitz motion to approve August, 2016 claims. Trustee Doty second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.**

Treasury Report for month ending August 31, 2016: {21:02} -

FUND # 7245 Operating Fund	\$ -7,088.05
FUND # 7244 Voted Levy (5 mills with sunset)	\$ 89,038.97
FUND # 7246 Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 16,338.14
FUND # 7243 Voted Levy Operating Fund	\$.51

Check #6273 interim check Montana State Fund 8/22/16 \$ 1,437.16
 Check numbers 6274-6301 both inclusive issued 09/14/16 \$ 14,454.64
 Represents August, 2016 claims

Fire chief payroll \$2,200.00 {August 5 & August 19}
 Employer expense match SS & Medicare \$168.30
 Quickbook processing fee \$3.50

A101 Revenue Receipts: Deposited August, 2016

Fund #7245

Receipt #100420 Fast & Furious Ag Day Donation water arena \$100.00
 Receipt #100543 OEM cost share air conditioning \$1,200.00
 Receipt #100544 Jonathan Thorsted Donation use of equipment \$100.00

Pending Deposit

Check #8910 M.G. Kennemann for Knox Box \$205.00

Trustee Konitz motion to approve treasury report. Trustee Roberts second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.

Chief's Report: {26:25} – Chief Laisy reported two engines with a three person crew per engine. were out on wildland fires. While in the past, an engine was staffed with a two person crew. August, 2016 Polson Rural responded to 27 incidents including 2 public assists, 1 illegal burn, 4 ambulance assists, 2 mutual aids, 4 smoke alarms, 6 grass fires, 8 vehicle accidents. Arranged for temporary insurance for the freightliner. Captain Hoel and volunteers repaired the electrical window function on Engine #316. The pump valves were cleaned and lubed on Engine #319. Completed regular repair and maintenance on all the apparatus in the stations. The Fairgrounds Station was power washed. The county donated a printer which was installed at the call desk. Volunteers repaired damage on the engine in use at the Irvine Flats fire. The engine is in service. Tested, numbered and inventoried all the hose on the apparatus. The hose should be tested once a year. Captain Hoel coordinated the project and noted the hose tested satisfactory. Chief Laisy thanked the crew. Three firefighters attended a memorial service in Missoula for Justin Beebe, a Lolo firefighter, based in Missoula. Justin was a member of a hot shot crew battling a wildfire in Great Basin National Park in Nevada. Engine #316 was used to attend the memorial service. Water supply systems were reviewed in the district. During the process, at least two additional systems were discovered and added to the district's inventory. The district is working with the private organizations that manages the water systems. Maps will be completed indicating the location of the hydrants and source of water supply. Trustee Konitz questioned the testing of the hydrants on an annual basis. Chief Laisy replied the hose and hydrant testing will be completed annually as part of the ISO rating. The volunteers assisted with the ISO inspection September 13th. Numerous hours were spent preparing for the inspection and the day of the ISO review. A first line engine was out of service due to loose pump packing. Captain Hoel assisted by Matt Dougherty repaired the engine and it is in service. Chair Clapp thanked Chief Laisy for the report. Trustee Roberts questioned if the hose on the engines pressure test data is recorded. Chief Laisy indicated the data is marked at the coupling and the data is entered on the inventory list. The spare hose will be tested in the future.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT {36:03} - Jane Clapp reported the volunteers spent several days completing hose testing for the ISO rating and data.. Three firefighters generally provide a brush truck at the race track speedway events. September 23 will be the final event for the season. The membership designed a new logo, purchased and delivered special t-shirts for the 911 center dispatchers. The department responded to the Bierney Creek fire at Lakeside with two engines and a three person crew for each engine for four days and one truck and crew stayed on for two more days. The volunteers will be paid by the DNRC contract service agreement. No major incidents were reported during the wildland responses. During a quick response at the top of Jette Hill, the volunteers were able to keep the fire from spreading to nearby structures. The membership is preparing for Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15. With funds raised by the membership, special fire prevention coloring books, crayons, pencils, rulers, and bookmarks were purchased to hand out to students during presentations at the rural schools. Leanna Fillman asked if the department services fire extinguishers during Fire Prevention Week. The typical dry powder extinguisher requires service by a local company. In the past, the department assisted with replacing batteries in smoke detectors. Trustee Roberts asked if the thermal imaging cameras purchased recently meet the expectations and is the supply sufficient. Chief Laisy and Captain Hoel reported the cameras work well and no additional cameras are needed at this time. Chair Clapp reported the national campaign for Fire Prevention Week is a reminder to replace your smoke alarm every 10 years.

Additional information Chief's report {44:22} - Chief Laisy provided a copy of his real property tax statement indicating the annual taxes paid for fire district service is \$7.23 per month. Paul plans to provide additional information how the fire budget affects the county budget as a whole and compare other fire district budgets and operations similar to Polson Rural. The new Life Flight is coming in October with new helicopters. Life Flight will offer fire fighter families a medical emergency flight on a helicopter or fixed wing and accept the insurance coverage as payment in full. It only applies to their company and the affiliated companies. Dispatch will present a variety of systems available for the 911 center to the public September 21, 23 and 27. The system providers will provide an overview of the different systems.

Old Business:

STATION TO SOUTH AREA OF DISTRICT UPDATE

REVIEW/DISCUSS PLAN/APPOINT COMMITTEE {47:25} – Chair Clapp reported the tribe has determined to provide the district up to five acres on Ford Road and Highway 93 to construct a fire station and perhaps a training facility. The project was also discussed with the county. Jack suggested a committee appointed to report back to the board with recommendations, options, and costs. Trustee Nelson agrees a committee should be appointed. Fred suggested the committee appointed by Chief Laisy. The chief has plans and is aware of the needs. Trustee Roberts commented the chief is aware of the needs of the district and public members should be appointed to the committee. A plan and costs should be in place. Chief Laisy indicated a committee should be appointed for the fire station project and 6x6 truck project. He will be available to work with the committee and appoint a committee comprised of public members. Chair Clapp requested Paul report back to the board next month who is appointed to the committee and apprised of activity. Trustee Konitz commented the district also plans to apply for grants. The project is being reviewed by the tribal planning department and includes plans for a frontage road extended from the location of Les Schwab to Ford Road for a commercial and industrial area. The tribe will consider participation for water and sewer facilities at the proposed fire station.

NEWLY ACQUIRED 6X6 TRUCK UPDATE

REVIEW PLAN/APPOINT COMMITTEE {52:17} – Chief Laisy indicated a committee should be appointed for the 6x6 truck project. He will be available to work with the committee and appoint a committee comprised of public members. Chair Clapp requested Paul report back to the board next month who is appointed to the committee and apprised of activity, suggestions, and recommendations.

REVIEW POSTING OF MEETING MINUTES

(WEBSITE POSTING BY RB SECRETARY) {52:36} – Trustee Roberts reported at the August 10 meeting a motion was passed the website would be restored with the archive minutes. The March, April, May, June, July, 2016 minutes are not on the website. Captain Hoel indicated the March through July minutes should be sent to Click Here Design for posting to the website. The volunteers are not posting to the website in house. Trustee Nelson suggested the minutes sent to Click Here Design to post the minutes. In the past, Bonnie transmitted the approved minutes to Click Here Design. The minutes are of record at Lake County Office of Clerk and Recorder as a public document file (pdf). The recorded document is the official document to post to the website.

New Business:

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS 7244 TO 7245 {56:35} – Chair Clapp introduced Resolution 2016-02 transferring certain expenses from Fund #7244 5-mill voted levy to Fund #7245 operating fund. The sum of \$28,663.34 identified as Fairgrounds Station #1 payment \$22,845.84 and 2016 Dodge administrative vehicle payment \$5,817.50. **Trustee Nelson motion to adopt Resolution #2016-02. Trustee Roberts second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.** {Resolution attached to minutes as an addendum}

RESPONSE COUNTY ATTORNEY REGARDING “ISSUES WITH BOARD” {58:05} – The Polson Rural Fire District was presented a response to inquiries that were raised during an investigation of Polson Rural Fire. Walter E. Congdon, Civil Deputy, Lake County Attorney sent a response to Kim Christopherson, a Kalispell attorney, concluding certain findings and determinations. A copy of the letter was provided for the district files. Trustee Nelson suggested the letter sent to the newspaper, television media, and constituents in the audience.. A front page article in a local newspaper stated numerous allegations against the board and firemen. Trustee Nelson concluded the letter indicates the issues are not major. Mr. Congdon's time and efforts are appreciated. Chair Clapp commented one of the issues addresses the meeting minutes modified prior to the public meeting. The minutes have not been corrected prior to the public meeting. Trustee Roberts commented review of the minutes at the monthly meeting provides limited time for review. Trustee Doty suggested the minutes emailed for review prior to the meeting and during the public meeting correct the minutes, if necessary. **Trustee Nelson motion in the interest of full disclosure send the response letter provided by Mr. Congdon to the various news media regarding the allegations addressed in the newspaper. Trustee Konitz second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.** {Letter attached to minutes as an addendum}

CONSIDER/ADOPT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PLAN {01:02} – Chair Clapp presented a capital improvement plan document consistent with MCA 7-6-616 for adoption. The county attorney reviewed and approved the CIP. The fund is referenced by name. **Trustee Konitz motion to adopt the capital improvement plan. Trustee Roberts second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.** {CIP attached to minutes as an addendum}

Public Input on Non Agenda Items: {01:06} – Leanna Fillman thanked all the volunteers for honoring the fallen on the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Mr. Winn asked if a Global Positioning System (GPS) is used to respond to a location. Chair Clapp commented the GPS is seldom used. Occasionally the GPS is viewed at the engine house prior to leaving. Chief Laisy advised a google-map system is available at the call desk. Updated systems will identify the address off the phone call and transfer the information to the screen in the truck. Leanna Fillman mentioned as part of fire prevention, residents could be encouraged to provide an updated address to 911.

Una Rose Graham commented the Heglie property across from the Fairgrounds Station is in the city. The property has an overgrowth of grass which is a fire hazard. Trustee Nelson advised the property is in tribal trust, therefore the tribe should be contacted. Chief Laisy volunteered to contact tribal division of fire to burn off the area.

Trustee Konitz thanked Jeff Veach for volunteering to mow and maintain the area at the Big Arm Station. Jeff is also a volunteer fireman. Thank you to Captain Hoel for all the volunteer time at the station including engine maintenance, and hose testing for the recent ISO rating. All the volunteers are appreciated for their time and effort to serve the rural district. The ISO rating is very important to the taxpayer as an insurance premium savings. Trustee Konitz assisted with the ISO rating in the past and it is an amazing effort. Thank you from the board.

Chair Clapp motion to adjourn. Trustee Doty second. VOTE: Unanimous Motion passed.

Chair Clapp thanked the public for being constructive in their comments and attempting to address issues.

Adjourn 8:16 p.m.

Next regular scheduled meeting October 12, 2016 7:00 p.m. at Big Arm Station.


R. Jack Clapp, Chair


Jack Konitz, Secretary-Treasurer


Bonnie M. Manicke, Recorder

Polson Rural Fire District

25B Regatta Road Polson, MT 59860 406.883.4244

AGENDA

Polson Rural Fire District Trustee Monthly Meeting
September 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Station #1 (Fairgrounds Station)

Trustee Meeting Includes:

Review Minutes – August 10, 2016
September 8, 2016 Special Budget Meeting
Communications
Review & Approve Claims
Treasurer's Report
Chief's Report
Membership's Report

Old Business Including:

Station to South area of district update review/discuss plan/ appoint committee
Newly acquired 6x6 truck update/review plan/appoint committee
Review posting of meeting minutes (website posting by RB Secretary)

New Business Including:

Resolution to transfer funds 7244 to 7245
Response County Attorney re: "issues with board"
Consider/adopt Capital Reserve Fund Plan

Public Input on Non Agenda Items:

Chief's tip for the Month: "Test your smoke alarms and shake fire extinguishers monthly"

Adjourn:

**All residents of the Polson Rural Fire District and interested general public are encouraged to attend. Resident's questions and ideas help to keep the trustees informed and assist them in formulating their decisions. Any member of the public wishing to submit items for Board review/consideration needs to submit them to the Board Clerk Jack Konitz (email skonitz@gmail.com) at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting. For a full text of approved minutes contact board clerk or find available at county court house. For a view of the upcoming agenda please go to www.polsonruralfire.org.

Polson Rural Fire District
August, 2016 claims Paid September 14, 2016

Ck. #	Description	Memo	Category	Amount
6273	Montana State Fund	Expense constant	506 Worker's Compensation	-175.00
		Installment 1/4	506 Worker's Compensation	-1262.10
6274	AutoZone	Inv#3429629811 No ticket invoice	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-19.98
		Inv#3429640506 No ticket invoice	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-12.99
		Inv#3429642776 Truck #316	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-55.98
6275	Century Link	Acct #41061412 406 849-5666	304 Phone (Landline) - Big Arm Station	-56.88
		Acct #411978591 406 883-4244	317 Phone (Landline) - Fairgrounds Stn.	-70.36
6276	City Of Polson	Utility Billing Acct 7304 FairgroundsStnFillSpout August, 2016	316 Water Fill Spout - Fairgrounds Stn.	-80.94
6277	Davis & Brown CPAs PC	Inv#12246 8/03/16 Run Fire Chief Payroll	345 Payroll Accounting Fire Chief Salary	-20.30
		Inv#12246 8/08/16 Create PDF 8/01/16 DeptRevPer LakeCoRequest	345 Payroll Accounting Fire Chief Salary	-4.64
		Inv#12246 8/17/16 Fire Chief Payroll	345 Payroll Accounting Fire Chief Salary	-14.50
		Inv#12246 8/23/16 WorkerCompRptOfcMtgw/Paul	345 Payroll Accounting Fire Chief Salary	-43.50
		Inv#12246 8/31/16 Run Fire Chief Payroll	345 Payroll Accounting Fire Chief Salary	-29.00
6278	Draggin' Wagon Towing, LLC	Inv#10142 Irvine Flats Road Base Fee Nighttime	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-300.00
6279	Energy Partners, L.L.C.	Acct#5-07504 summer fill	306 Propane - Big Arm Station	-37.46
6280	First Bank Card	WalMart 2-hp ink	201 Operating Supplies	-67.94
		WalMart 1-hp ink	201 Operating Supplies	-35.97
		Stageline Pizza 8/13/16 hose testing	201 Operating Supplies	-86.50
		Betty's Diner 8/06/16	201 Operating Supplies	-99.50
		Pay pal buyawill 8/04/16	201 Operating Supplies	-18.65
		Less credit paypal all star truck	201 Operating Supplies	53.51
6281	Galls, LLC	6-S511 Eagle Fire Shield Badge	334 Recruitment & Retention	-648.00
		6-fire scramble seals	334 Recruitment & Retention	-21.00
		Shipping	334 Recruitment & Retention	-8.22
		Less Credit Balance Ref Ck#6111	204 Turnouts Structure & Wildland	142.24
6282	Cara Hingiss	August weekly cleaning Fairgrounds Stn.	321 Cleaning Services - Fairgrounds Stn.	-125.00
6283	Lake County Leader	Acct LC51102554 Legal Notice Budget FY'17 public hearing 2-times	330 Newspaper legal notice, advertising	-17.60
6284	Lake County Treasurer	ExemptPlateVIN#1FULATCG09PAG0084 2009 Freightliner	211000 Interfund Payable FreightlinerPrj	-20.00
6285	Les Schwab Tire Center	91000109425 Eng #333	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-406.00
		91000109542 Eng #333	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-421.62
6286	Mission Valley Power	Location #2806820000	302 Electricity - Big Arm Station	-79.69
		Location #2876820001;2876820002 {2-security lights}	302 Electricity - Big Arm Station	-25.62
		Location #2400744000	315 Electricity - Fairgrounds Station	-188.54
6287	Montana Ace Polson	Inv116973154 stn 1 foam,chalk,hinges, etc	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-43.76
		Inv#116974847 5-gal diesel can	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-34.99
		Inv#116976494 chain saw file & guide	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-13.99
		Inv#112646072 pipe,tape,trash bags 316 Race Horse WL	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-71.50
		Inv#116979697 markers for hose testing	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-11.56
		Inv#116980288 gel, fasteners	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-11.79
		Inv#116981264 metal repair tape trk 333	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-6.79
		Inv#116984319 chain loop, misc small items	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-106.23
6288	Montana State Fund	Policy#03-434961-3 WorkComp pyrrlpt 1/01/16-8/01/16AmtCorrected	506 Worker's Compensation	-586.72
6289	Montana State University	Inv#1375-4 FY 2017 Resource Center Membership	331 Membership & Dues	-185.00
6290	Jim Morelli Electric LLC	Inv#539 hook up air conditioner supplies 178.83;labor 595.00	320 Repairs & Maint. Fairgrounds Station	-773.83
6291	Polson Auto Parts, Inc.	Inv#395260 diesel exhaust fluid	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-13.23
		Inv#396233 station 1	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-22.45
		Inv#3396235 fuse	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-5.15
		Inv#397627	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-9.99
		Inv#398303 bolt	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-2.49

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Polson Rural Fire District
August, 2016 claims Paid September 14, 2016 PAGE 2

Ck. #	Description	Memo	Category	Amount
6292	Providence Health Service	Quintana, Jacob	505 Firefighters Physicals	-100.00
		Trombley, Gerald	505 Firefighters Physicals	-100.00
6293	Quik E'z Towing & Repair LLC	Inv#7628 Truck #333 sensor,labor,shop supplies	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-437.00
		Inv#7661 Truck #333 exhaust leak	211 Vehicle Repair & Maint Supplies	-689.82
6294	Republic Services	Acct #3-0889-0014329 Inv #0889-001784017	319 Disposal Service - Fairgrounds Stn.	-57.80
6295	S & A Subway, Inc.	Inv. #86 food for hose testing workshop	201 Operating Supplies	-43.00
6296	Schultz Refrigeration	Invoice#64143 Fujitsu min-split heat pump system	320 Repairs & Maint. Fairgrounds Station	-6125.00
6297	Unifire, Inc	Inv#9059271 6-safety vests plus shipping	204 Turnouts Structure & Wildland	-134.64
6298	UPS Store	Inv#9522, 9717, 9722	206 Radios & Pagers, Repair	-78.08
6299	Valley Journal	Inv#21955 Legal Notice Public HearingFY 2016-2017 Budget 2 times	330 Newspaper legal notice, advertising	-18.60
6300	Wal Mart Polson	Acct #6032 2020 1008 9218 bathroom supplies; binder	201 Operating Supplies	-19.64
6301	WEX Bank	Truck #314	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-295.62
		Truck #301	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-276.99
		Truck #318	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-62.72
		Truck #327	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-47.64
		Truck #326	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-173.31
		Truck #324	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-107.74
		Truck #300	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-176.23
		Truck #316	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-225.27
		Truck #333	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-346.99
		Truck #308	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-74.31
		Truck #313	210 Gas, Diesel,Oil	-144.14
			TOTAL	-15891.74

NOTE: Interim check

8/22/16 check #6273 Montana State Fund \$1,437.10 included w/Total August, 2016 claims

August, 2016 payroll – Lake County accounting report

	Category	Amount
Public Safety Fire Chief Payroll		
Fire chief payroll August 5 & 19 , 2016	112 Salary	1775.70
Employee tax withholding, soc sec, medicare	112 IRS	342.30
Employee state withholding	112 state withholding	82.00
Employer expense match SS & Medicare	140 IRS employer	168.30
Employer expense UIT	140 UIT employer	34.65
' Quickbooks processing fee	300 fee	3.50
Total Payroll		2406.45

NOTE: Employee State withholding per pay period \$41.00 remitted quarterly

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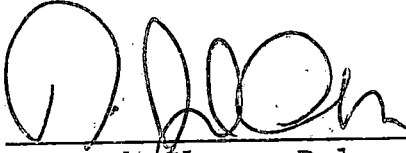
Resolution #2016-02 Polson Rural Fire District

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM ACCOUNT #7244 TO ACCOUNT #7245.

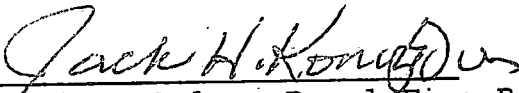
WHEREAS, the Polson Rural Fire District adopted a 2016-17 budget on Thursday, September 8, 2016 by Resolution 2016-1 and said budget provided for payment of certain expenses from account #7244.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Polson Rural Fire Board;
1) that the sum of \$28,663.34, \$22,845.84 for the loan payment for Station #1 and \$5,817.50 for payment on the Dodge truck, be transferred from account #7244 to account #7245 pursuant to said budget.

Passed and approved on this 14th day of September, 2016.



R. Jack Clapp, Polson Rural Fire Board, Chair



Jack Konitz, Polson Rural Fire Board, Secy/Treas

OFFICE OF THE LAKE COUNTY ATTORNEY

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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WALTER E. CONGDON

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY
BENJAMIN R. ANCIAUX
MOLLY OWEN

Aug. 17, 2016

Ms. Kim Christopherson
Christopherson Law Office
P. O. Box 1817
Kalispell, MT 59903-1817

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF POLSON RURAL FIRE

Dear Kim:

Per your inquiry and numerous other inquiries, I have put substantial time into investigation of numerous allegations against the board and firemen of the Polson Rural Fire District. The majority of the issues arise from 2-2-131, 2-2-121, and 2-2-105, and concerns over those requirements or guidelines.

In particular by way of information, some general parameters of the District are as follows:

- 1) The District has been through the standard state directed audit several times without incident or concern. There do not seem to be any issues regarding the books, funds missing or not accounted for.
- 2) The District and the County Commissioners have discussed and created a policy or guideline for reviewing volunteer applications. As with most personnel matters, part of that review is public and part is a closed proceeding as many personnel matters are. I found no indication or history of reviewing applicants without following those guidelines, and considering applicant history. A copy is attached.
- 3) I determined two incidents of individuals violating 22-121 regarding personal use of District property for private benefit or purposes. Those involved the borrowing of gasoline from the fire hall in Big Arm and the use of Big Arm station trucks to signal persons on the lake. These incidents seem to have ceased but did occur previously, without prosecution or written reprimand that I can find.

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